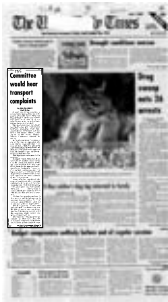


Union Daily
Times
Union, SC
Circ. 6370
From Page:
1
6/7/2007
61042



135 Committee would hear transport complaints

By **RALPH GREER**
Staff Writer

A joint resolution creating a committee to hear and resolve complaints about the state's Medicaid Transportation Brokering System was given third reading in the Senate today with the help of Sen. Harvey Peeler (R-Cherokee).

The resolution was introduced last Wednesday and three House members including State Rep. Dennis Moss (D-Cherokee) and was sent to the Senate, where it was placed in the Senate Medical Affairs Committee, chaired by Peeler.

With only one more day remaining in the regular legislative session, Peeler requested that it be recalled from committee and given a second reading on Wednesday. He

then received unanimous approval from the Senate to give the resolution final reading today.

The legislation now goes to the governor.

A Union native, Moss had 78 cosponsors on another joint resolution he introduced several weeks ago that would prohibit any state funds from being appropriated to out-of-state brokering firms conducting Medicaid transportation but the resolution is still bogged in the House Ways and Means Committee, held captive by a Florence lawmaker who is a physician.

Moss said he introduced the original resolution after receiving complaints from around the state about the two out-of-state brokering firms awarded contracts to run the Medicaid transportation system, which also caused a loss of jobs in Cherokee and Union counties.

Medicaid recipients now have to deal with an out-of-state service to arrange transportation to their medical appointments and no longer have a choice of providers.

The resolution still in committee provides that "no State funds may be appropriated to any out-of-state Medicaid brokering system until the Legislative Audit Council completes an investigation."

The legislation that passed today creates a Medicaid Advisory Committee composed of representatives from a wide range of orga-

See Committee, Page 3



Union Daily
Times
Union, SC
Circ. 6370
From Page:
3
6/7/2007
61042



Committee

Continued from Front Page

nizations dealing with Medicaid recipients to hear complaints and resolve issues concerning the Medicaid Transportation Brokerage System.

The committee will include representatives from the South Carolina Emergency Medical Services Association, South Carolina Hospital Association, South Carolina Health Care Association, South Carolina Nursing Home Association, South Carolina Medical Association, Rural Transportation Association, Office on Aging in the Lieutenant Governor's Office, Department of Health and Environmental Control,

Public Service Commission, two Medicaid recipients or two family members of Medicaid recipients, and a member of the brokering company operating the Medicaid transportation system.

The committee will meet at least quarterly to review issues and complaints concerning the Medicaid Transportation Brokerage System and will make recommendations for the resolution of the issues and complaints.

The advisory committee would be abolished when the contract for the operation of the Medicaid Transportation Brokerage System expires or is terminated.